

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /110 W

-----051345 200840Z /15

R 101134Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1002

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1107

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SF, WAS

SUBJECT: NABIBIA: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1101

1. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 8, PRES BONGO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS AND

SUGGESTIONS RE NAMIBIA (WHETHER IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRES OF OAU OR GABON

WAS NOT CLEAR - MEDIA SAID BOTH):

A. WESTERN PLAN HAD POSITIVE ASPECTS TO EXTENT IT BRINGS
DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION TO NAMIBIAN PROBLEM BUT THERE ARE GAPS ESPECIALLY
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ON TWO IMPORTANT POINTS OF WALVIS BAY AND STATIONING OF SOUTH
AFRICAN TROOPS. WALVIS BAY PROBLEM IS ECONOMIC. RESOLUTION WILL
REQUIRE PATIENT AND ATTENTIVE CONCENTRATION. ANY FUTURE SOUTH
AFRICAN-NAMIBIAN AGREEMENT MIGHT PROVIDE FOR FREE UTILIZATION
FOR A CERTAIN TIME OF PORT BY SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS FOLLOWING
PRECEDENT OF SUEZ CANAL.

B. FOR SECURITY REASONS, WEST HAD PROVIDED FOR REDUCED

NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN NAMIBIA UNTIL INSTALLATION OF
NEW GOVERNMENT. BULK OF THESE TROOPS SHOULD BE STATIONED IN SOUTH.

C. IF PRETORIA ACCEPTS THESE SUGGESTIONS, IT WILL BE
DECISIVE STEP TOWARDS NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. THEY ARE REALIS-
TIC AMENDMENTS TO WESTERN PLAN. TOO MUCH TIME HAS ALREADY BEEN
LOST. WE MUST MOVE ON TO ACTION AND DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO
HELP OUR NAMIBIAN BROTHERS.

2. CONTENT OF HIS REMARKS AS REPORTED BY MEDIA DIFFERED
SLIGHTLY FROM NOTES BONGO HAD PREPARED, COPY OF WHICH HE GAVE
FRENCH, GERMAN AND AMERICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION DURING DEMARCHE
REPORTED REFTEL. NOTES FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOT INCLUDE TIME QUALI-
FICATION RE USE OF WALVIS BAY BY SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS. THEY ALSO
SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF TROOPS IN NORTH TO SYBOLIC
FORCE, WHICH ONLY IMPLICITLY COVERED IN HIS ACTUAL COMMENTS.
TIENKEN

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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